

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

A total of 20 claims remain pending in the present application. The foregoing amendments are presented in response to the Office Action mailed November 28, 2006 wherefore reconsideration of this application is requested.

In preparing the above-noted amendments, careful attention was paid to ensure that no new subject matter has been introduced. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 6, 7, 12, 13, 18, 19, 22, 23, 28, 29, 32 and 33.

The following amendments have been made to the claims to place them in a condition for allowance:

- Claims 1 to 5, 14 to 17 and 24 to 27 have been cancelled.
- Claim 6 has been amended to be in independent format by incorporating the subject matter of cancelled base claim 1 and intervening claim 3 as identified by the Examiner.
- Claim 18 has been amended to be in independent format by incorporating the subject matter of cancelled base claim 14 and intervening claim 17 as identified by the Examiner.
- Claim 28 has been amended to be in independent format by incorporating the subject matter of cancelled base claim 24 and intervening claim 27 as identified by the Examiner.
- Allowed claim 7 and rejected claim 8 have been amended to depend upon allowable claim 6.
- Allowed claim 19 and rejected claim 20 have been amended to depend upon allowable claim 18.
- Allowed claim 29 and rejected claim 30 have been amend to depend upon allowable claim 28.

Applicant would like to note that:

- Rejected claims 9-11 now refer back to base claim 8 which should now be allowable.

- Rejected claim 21 now refers back to base claim 20 which should now be allowable.
- Rejected claim 31 now refers to base claim 30 which should now be allowable.

Claims 6-13, 18-23 and 28-33 remain pending. Applicant submits that independent claims 6, 18 and 28 as amended present allowable subject matter. As remaining claims 7-13, 19-23 and 29-33 depend on allowable claims they should be allowable. In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and early action in that respect is courteously solicited.

If any extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is required to obtain entry of this response, such extension is hereby respectfully requested. If there are any fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 which are not enclosed herewith, including any fees required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-5113.

Respectfully submitted,

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